Express Mail No.: EU 035 516 276 US

Filed: October 31, 2003

Page 7

## REMARKS

To more clearly and distinctly claim the invention, Applicant has amended claims 1-4 and 10 and cancelled claims 9 and 11-17. None of the prior art discloses a ball valve assembly such as described by the present application which particularly discloses and claims having a drain valve in communication with at least one of the ball section and main section. Accordingly, claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

The Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned in furtherance of the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 31, 2003

Reg. No. 34,221 Customer No. 21710 Attorney for Applicants

Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP

One Financial Center Boston, MA 02111 Tel: 617-856-8369

Fax: 617-856-8201

#1237392 v\1 -- 1171/4